

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 06158 071826Z
ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07
IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 NRC-05
/094 W

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R 071610Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7238
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
USNMR SHAPE
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

S E C R E T BONN 06158

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR, GW
SUBJECT: MBFR: FRG STILL CAUTIOUS ON TABLING NATIONAL
MANPOWER DATA

REFS: A. USNATO 1970; B. MBFR VIENNA 0170

1. THE FRG IS MAINTAINING A CAUTIOUS ATTITUDE REGARDING THE TABLING OF ITS NATIONAL MANPOWER DATA IN VIENNA. AN INFORMAL CONVERSATION WITH FONOFF MBFR DIRECTOR RUECKRIEGEL TODAY REVEALED THAT THERE WAS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD FOR A CHANGE IN POSITION IN THE NEAR FUTURE, SCHNELLER'S COMMENTS AT NATO THAT THE FRG HAD MADE NO FINAL DECISION AND NEEDED TIME TO REFLECT NOTWITHSTANDING (REF A).

2. RUECKRIEGEL NOTED THAT FONMIN GENSCHER STILL HAD SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT PERMITTING THE FRG TO TABLE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BONN 06158 071826Z

ITS DATA BECAUSE OF THE POLITICAL DANGER INVOLVED. RUECKRIEGEL TOLD OF GENSCHER HAVING SEEN A NATO REPORT IN WHICH A DUTCH REP ARGUED THAT IT MADE NO DIFFERENCE IF NATIONAL DATA WERE TABLED FORMALLY SINCE SUCH INFORMATION WAS ALREADY AVAILABLE TO THE EAST THROUGH OPEN SOURCES. RUECKRIEGEL SAID THAT GENSCHER HAD WRITTEN WITH HIS GREEN PEN IN THE MARGIN "NA ALSO", I.E., "YOU SEE."

ACCORDING TO RUECKRIEGEL, THE DUTCHMAN'S ARGUMENT MERELY REINFORCED GENSCHER'S BELIEF THAT THE EAST WAS NOT AFTER THE INFORMATION PER SE BUT RATHER ITS OFFICIAL TABLING SO THAT THE EAST COULD EVENTUALLY USE THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION TO INTERFERE IN FRG DEFENSE AFFAIRS.

3. WE ASKED RUECKRIEGEL WHETHER GENSCHER STOOD ALONE AT THE SENIOR LEVELS OF THE FRG IN HOLDING THIS POSITION. RUECKRIEGEL THOUGHT THAT DEFMIN LEBER SUPPORTED GENSCHER AS HE NORMALLY DID ON MBFR MATTERS. (COMMENT: THIS COMMENT CALLED INTO QUESTION THE REF B REPORT THAT LEBER THOUGHT TABLING WAS ACCEPTABLE. IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT RUECKRIEGEL IS NOT AWARE OF THE COMBINED FONOFF/FMOD STAFF PAPER, ALTHOUGH HE HAS BEEN ABOARD LONG ENOUGH NOW TO KNOW OF IT). RUECKRIEGEL HAD NOTHING TO OFFER ON WHERE THE CHANCELLOR MIGHT STAND ON THE TABLING ISSUE.

4. WE ASKED RUECKRIEGEL WHERE THE FRG BELIEVED THE ALLIANCE COULD GO FROM HERE IF NATIONAL DATA WERE NOT TABLED. HE SAID THE FRG HAD NOTHING TO OFFER AT THE MOMENT BUT WAS STARTING TO THINK ABOUT THE PROBLEM. HE SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS NATO STUDY THE QUESTION OF WHERE THE CURRENT DATA DISCUSSION WOULD LEAD US EVEN IF NATIONAL DATA WERE TABLED AND THE EASTERN COUNTER-TABLING STILL RESULTED IN THE FIGURE OF 805,000 WITH NO DISCERNABLE SKULDUGGERY ANYWHERE. WHEN ASKED WHETHER HE THOUGHT THE FRG COULD EVER AGREE TO TABLING ITS NATIONAL DATA, RUECKRIEGEL RESPONDED THAT NOTHING IN THIS SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BONN 06158 071826Z

WORLD WAS IMPOSSIBLE, BUT THAT GIVEN THE PRESENT MOOD OF CAUTION IN BONN -- HE CITED BOTH GENSCHER AND RUTH BY NAME -- IT APPEARED UNLIKELY THE FRG WOULD MOVE IN THIS DIRECTION IN THE NEAR FUTURE. RUECKRIEGEL ALSO REFERRED TO U.S.-SOVIET DIFFERENCES OVER SALT AND THE FACT THAT THE CHANCELLOR HIMSELF FELT THAT MBFR COULD GO NOWHERE UNTIL PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE ON SALT.

4. COMMENT: RUECKRIEGEL IS STILL FEELING HIS WAY ON THE JOB AND WE ARE NOT CERTAIN YET HOW MUCH WEIGHT WE CAN GIVE TO HIS OPINIONS. HOWEVER, HIS COMMENTS ABOUT THE CAUTIOUSNESS IN BONN SEEM TO BE WELL TAKEN AND VERY MUCH IN LINE WITH WHAT WE HAVE HEARD FROM OTHER SOURCES. UNDER THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, WE DO NOT PLACE TOO MUCH HOPE IN SCHNELLER'S IMPLICATION THAT FRG AGREEMENT TO TABLING NATIONAL MANPOWER DATA IS JUST A QUESTION OF TIME.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 07-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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